(b) ONGC, Oil India Ltd. (OIL) and private joint venture companies are carrying out exploration for oil and gas in the areas granted to them on nomination basis under Pre-New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) and NELP rounds. Two more onland blocks are under offer in NELP-IVth round in this basin. Lastly, oil refineries are set up on techno-economic consideration.

(c) Under X Plan, National Oil Companies (NOCs) have earmarked Rs. 831.44 crores for exploration activities in the basin and private joint venture companies have committed expenditure of Rs. 97 crores in their respective current exploration.

Reservation policy in appointment of dealers

983. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil sector PSUs will soon be allowed to appoint dealers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the need for this measure; and

(d) in what manner the issue of reservation will be addressed in this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (d) Consequent upon the dismantling of the Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) in the petroleum sector with effect from 1.4.2002, the selection of dealers/distributors for retail outlets (petrol pumps) SKO-LDO dealerships and LPG distributorships at different locations in the country, will be made by the oil marketing companies (OMCs) themselves as per the guidelines to be adopted by them. While finalising the policy, OMCs will take a view on all related questions including reservation.

Mobility of resources for crude oil production

984. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state: